

pg 1



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/582,716	06/30/2000	Yeow Chong Chuah	Q-58912	6895

7590 03/15/2004

Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2171

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2004

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/582,716

Applicant(s)

CHUAH, YEOW CHONG

Examiner

Marc R Filipczyk

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

This Action is responsive to Applicant's response filed on February 25, 2004 (paper # 14). Claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 5, the term, "product" is indefinite. In general, product is the result of multiplying **two** numbers, however the claim limitation utilizes only **one** number, the "number of numerical identifiers."

Regarding claim 14, the term "combination" is indefinite. In particular, there is no apparent connection between a combination and the rest of the claim.

Claim 15 is dependent from claim 14, thus it contains the deficiencies of that claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by White et al (hereinafter 'White') (U.S. Patent No. 5,918,225).

Regarding claims 1, 8 and 14, White discloses a system and method for data tabulation processing of a data file having a plurality of records in a plurality of data type fields, comprising: (title, White)

(Note: columns and records in a relational database)

i) a preprocessing stage in which, for each individual data type field (column), each distinct data value is identified and allocated a numerical identifier unique for that data type field; (fig. 6B, items 612 and 614)

ii) a tabulation stage in which, for each record, a cell of a result array is determined based on the numerical identifiers for that record, and a resulting value stored in the result array cell is incremented (fig. 6B, 615).

Regarding claims 2, 9, 13 and 15, White discloses wherein the preprocessing stage includes generating from said data file an encoded data file containing the numerical identifiers for the data values in each field and a mapping file which stores a correspondence between each of the distinct data values in the fields and the corresponding numerical identifiers (fig. 6A, items 601, and 602).

Regarding claims 3 and 10, White discloses a plurality of encoded data files are generated in the pre-processing stage, one for each of the data type fields (fig. 4A).

Art Unit: 2171

Regarding claim 4, White discloses generating a tabulation result from said result array and said mapping file (fig. 6B, 615).

Regarding claim 5, as best as the Examiner is able to ascertain, White discloses initializing the result array having a number of cells determined by the number of numerical identifiers in the data type fields (col. 4, lines 60-67 and col. 53, line 66 to col. 54, line 6).

Regarding claims 6 and 11, White discloses at least two data type fields from the plurality of data type fields for tabulation, and generating the result array utilizing the numerical identifiers for the selected data type fields (fig. 6B).

Regarding claims 7 and 12, White discloses a cell or the result array is of the form:
cell is composed of: numerical identifiers for the record in selected data type fields and the number of distinct values in the selected fields (fig. 6B and col. 53, lines 36-40, also see col. 54, lines 50-53).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on February 25, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments and responses are listed below.

Applicant argues on pages 9-14 of the 2/25/04 response, that the claimed subject matter is enabling and definite.

Art Unit: 2171

In response to Applicant's arguments with the amended claims, the Examiner agrees. In view of the responses to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and amended claims, it is assumed that using claim 1 as exemplary, "records in a plurality of data type fields" corresponds to, "records with a common plurality of data type fields." This corresponds, for instance, to the records of a Relational Database, which matches the example in the specification. Thus, the "data type field" corresponds to a column of a record and renders the claim definite.

Applicant argues on pages 14-17 of the 2/25/2004 response, that the ground rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 are incorrect.

In response to Applicant's arguments, Examiner disagrees, however, to expedite the prosecution of the application, the prior art rejections submitted in the 11/25/03 office action are withdrawn.

With respect to all the pending claims 1-15, Examiner respectfully traverses Applicant's assertion based on the discussion and rejection cited above.

Conclusion

To expedite the process of examination Examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. 35 U.S.C. 112, objections and the like) set forth by the Examiner that Applicants provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Art Unit: 2171

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R Filipczyk whose telephone number is 703-305-7156. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2171

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF

March 4, 2004


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100